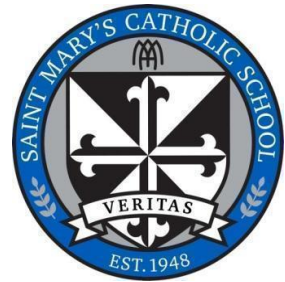




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!
ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 14
November 16, 2016



MISSION: To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

Front Office Corner

Office hours 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

School Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am (or Fridays for the First Friday of each month)

Upcoming:

Nov 17: Chess Club; Dairy Twist Food Night (4-8pm)

Nov 22: All school Mass; Jr Legion of Mary

**NO SCHOOL
NOVEMBER
23, 24, 25**



Thank you to all of the parents who responded to our recent parent survey. The feedback we gathered will be very helpful in our strategic planning efforts. We had 68 responses representing all grade levels. We see areas to celebrate as well as opportunities for improvement. Our School Improvement Committee will continue to analyze the results with the rest of the staff and all of our stakeholders. We will release a more comprehensive report with our action plan in the spring. (Results are being emailed with eNewsletter and printed for anyone who receives only the hardcopy newsletter. Hard copy survey results are also available upon request. Please email the office)

Thanksgiving is next week. There will be no school on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. Our school community is very blessed. I am especially grateful for our students and families. Thank you for sharing your children with us. I am also very thankful for the many volunteers we have in our school. We are looking at compiling a list of volunteer projects with a description of each. If you would like to help with the project, please contact the office. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

All of our parents and grandparents are invited to join Dr. Wallinger for some "Pumpkin Pie with the Principal" this Tuesday, November 22nd from 11:30am - 12:30pm.



To ensure we have enough pie for all, RSVPs much appreciated. Please call the office.

Congratulations to our 2nd Place Top Reader. Lindsey Wessling was our second place reader last quarter with 8,788 pages. What an amazing job!



Student Activities Food Drive. The school is invited to participate in a food drive through the month of November. The Bellevue Food Pantry has reported that their inventory is especially low this year...please help with this worthy cause. Top needs listed below....

soups	snack crackers	chili beans	Vegetables	saltine crackers
chili flavor packets	fruits	graham crackers	Hamburger helper	rice
peanut butter	noodles	Tuna Helper	Jelly	
macaroni	Ravioli	Spaghetti sauce	spaghetti noodles	
spaghetti O's	boxed potatoes	cooking oil	salt	sugar
sloppy joe mix	apple juice	taco shells	taco flavoring	coffee
applesauce	mayonnaise	ketchup	tea bags	mac-n-cheese
mustard	hot chocolate	chili	pickles	noodle sides

Spirit Wear Order Forms due November 22nd. Order forms are attached with this newsletter and have been emailed to all our school families. Please hand in completed order forms and money by Nov 22nd so orders can be filled for Christmas. For more information or with any questions contact Joanna Lee at jlee2367@gmail.com or 402-215-8640.

SCRIP Special Orders. As you know there are a wide variety of SCRIP cards we keep in stock, but some selections require special orders. With Christmas around the corner, there will be offerings of special orders. Please see attached order form for special orders. Orders received will be submitted on-line and filled in approximately one week.

Thank You – Veterans Day Assembly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended last Friday's veteran assembly in the school gym. Without the help of many volunteers and the support of the teachers and students, the assembly could not be done. To those families who baked patriotic cupcakes and cookies; to those who helped set up and take down; to the first and kindergarten students who blessed the veterans with their own prayer; to those who helped decorate and set up/take down; to the teachers and students who ate in their classrooms so we could get the gym ready; to Mrs. Hug for doing her PE classes outside; to those teachers & aides who helped serve refreshments or helped greet at the door; to the 8th graders who practiced their readings and practiced carrying the service branch flags; to the 7th graders who welcomed & escorted guests and vets; to Miss Kallman who rehearsed the songs; to Mrs. Billings and Mrs. Hasiak for being our photographers; to Cathy Braxton who tirelessly registered veterans, answered questions and encouraged people to attend and to Dr. Wallinger who allowed us to salute, celebrate, honor and thank the 60+ veterans who walked through our school doors—a BIG THANK YOU! A special thank you to MSgt. Hans Steinke and his family for allowing us to help them surprise Preston at his dad's homecoming. It became the highlight of the assembly with many teary eyed onlookers who stood so proudly witnessing his safe return.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the veterans who served and continue to serve in the military so that we can be free. We are truly blessed to have been graced by the attendance of five elderly veterans. They, along with all the veterans, teach our students and staff what cannot always be taught through textbooks: dedication, sacrifice, commitment, courage and most of all love of country. May God continue to shower you with rich blessings each and every day and may God bless America!

Basketball News. Practices have begun. Games start the first weekend of December and continue thru the middle of March. If you haven't yet registered, it is not too late, but please get your registration form in soonest. All questions on practice times should go to the coach. For any other sports questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director, at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

December Breakfast/Lunch Menu. See attached. Information is also available in Sycamore and webpage.

Leaving Extended Day or Homework Room for Basketball practice. Parents who would like their children to be dismissed from Extended Day or Homework Room will need to have a permission form signed and on file. Please request a form from the Homework room or Extended Day. As a reminder, only students having practice would be

dismissed (no siblings will be permitted watch practice). Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director, at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.

2016-2017 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The current price is \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 27, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20.

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in November (meeting in the entranceway near school gym): Thurs. Nov 17th - Chastity speaker Matt Fradd "The Love that Satisfies", 7-830pm at St. Wenceslaus Omaha (Free of charge and open to current 7th-12th grades). *Parent session "Parenting the Internet Generation" is from 6-7pm (flyer attached in eNewsletter or available upon request).



Ollie the Trolley Fun Night Saturday, December 10th 5-7pm. All are invited to come and enjoy trolley rides to look at lights, crafts for kids, & a special Christmas visitor. Please bring cookies or Christmas treat to share! Meeting place is the St. Mary's School Gym. Sign ups will be after masses the weekend of November 27th or on Sign-Up Genius (after Nov. 27). Search: SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com. Suggested donations: \$20/family or \$5/person.

Volunteer Opportunity: Student Greeters Needed to Hand out Advent Bookmarks at all Masses December 3rd and 4th starting with the 5pm Mass on December 3rd. Basic instructions are provided before hand. Students are needed to be in uniform and come 10 minutes early to Mass. They get an hour of volunteer work for coming to Mass. Thank you to the students and adults who have already stepped up. We have 5 student greeters out of 36 needed and 3 adult volunteers out of 18 needed to cover all 6 Masses Dec. 3rd and 4th. We would like to have 6 students and 3 adults at each Mass to cover the 3 doors. This is the 6th year students will be handing out Advent bookmarks to parishioners as a personal gift for all they do for St. Mary's School. Hope to hear from you soon.



Christmas Day Mass Choir Invite. Mrs. Menzel and Miss Kallman invite all St. Mary's School students grades 2-8 (and recent alumni) to come and sing with us for the 9:30 am Mass on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th. If you are going to be in town and you are going to Mass on Christmas Day, let's make a joyful noise together as a school family! We will be sending home a flyer with details, and we ask that you contact the school office or Miss Kallman by email, pass-a-note or phone to let us know you are planning to come. We want to be sure to save enough room for any and all who want to join us.

Home and School Association

HSA Fall Fundraiser Update. Product delivery date is **Friday, December 2nd**. A follow-up email will be sent out with pickup times and further instruction. Orders made online by family and friends will be delivered directly to their homes. Thank you all for your support! If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us directly (homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com)



Dairy Twist Food Night. Meet us tomorrow, **Thursday, November 17th, from 4-8 p.m** at Dairy Twist in Bellevue. Mention St. Mary's; our school makes 10% of sales. No SCRIP will be accepted that night.

Durham Winter Camps. The Durham Museum offers a variety of winter camps. Flyer is included in with today's eNewsletter. To have a hard copy flyer sent home, please call the office.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MANY BLESSINGS FROM ST. MARY'S STAFF AND STUDENTS